(d) As such multidisciplinary projects involving several languages and scripts are not being executed elsewhere, it is not possible to make any comparision. However, as the expenditure on equipment is limited to Personal Computer family of machines, the funds proposed appear to be small but are adequate to start with for such research.

(e) Does not arise.

Amount for the project of Forests Research Institute, Jodhpur

2154. SHRI B.L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount involved in the project of Forests Research Institute, Jodhpur; and

(b) whether the said institute is functioning with the full sanctioned staff and what are the achievements of the Institute so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) An amount of Rs. 25 lakhs is provided in the Plan Budget for the institute during the year 1990-91.

(b) This Institute was set up in April, 1988. 48 persons have been appointed against sanctioned strength of 175. Recruitment to the remaining posts is in progress. Eight Research Projects relating to soil, fertilizer and moisture management, insect, pest and termite problems have been initiated during the year 1989-90.

"Damage caused to environment by the use of pesticides"

2155. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whelther any study has been conducted regarding damage caused to environment due to continuous use of various pesticides;

(b) whether the same standards for which DDT has been banned abroad also apply in India; and

(c) what action Government have taken to check the continuing use of pesticides in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In India, the use of DDT has been banned in agriculture, it continues to be used for vector control. Some countries like USA, Canada, etc. have completely banned DDT.

(c) The Government of India has appointed a Standing Committee to review the implementation of various decisions regarding use of pesticides in the country.

Delay in setting up of Zirconium and Titanium Sponge Plant in Tamil Nadu

2156. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the setting up of Zirconium and Titanium sponge Plants in Palayakayal village in Chidambaranar District in Tamil Nadu has been delayed; and

(b) what steps are being taken to complete the project as scheduled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The project proposals are being progressed to obtain financial